

Our Family News Letter

Issue 57

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 2007

Uncle George Henningfeld shoots friend

Article from the Racine Daily Journal, Friday, 27 January 1899, page 8.

"Shot a Companion. One boy aims his gun at another and shoots him at Burlington. Last Saturday while Ed Prailes and George Henningfeld were shooting at a target with a small rifle near the St. Paul tracks in the southern part of the town of Burlington, the latter pointed the weapon - a 22 caliber - at young Prailes and discharged the same, the shot passing through his tongue and lodging in the side of his neck. Medical aid was summoned and the doctors probed for the bullet but without success. Young Prailes had warned his companion several times not to point the gun at him. It is not known whether young Henningfeld meant to shoot his companion or not. The District Attorney has been notified of the case and will make an investigation at once. Henningfeld has not yet been arrested."

Article from the Burlington Standard Democrat, Saturday, 28 January 1899.

"George Henningfeld and Ed Prailes, both boys, were shooting at a target with a 22-caliber rifle last Sunday. During a lull in the shooting Henningfeld pointed the rifle at Prailes and discharged the same. The bullet passed through Prailes' tongue and lodged in the side of his neck. Doctors probed for the bullet but could not extract it. Prailes' face and head are swollen, but he seems to be getting along all right. It was a narrow escape and should be a lesson to parents who permit young boys to have firearms."

Article from the Burlington Free Press, Wednesday, 1 February 1899.

"The District Attorney decided that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant the commencement of proceedings against George Henningfeld for shooting Ed Prailes last week, and the matter will probably be dropped. Young Prailes is able to be around and seems to be getting along all right."

Uncle George Henningfeld was the son of Henry Henningfeld and Clara Stratman. He later married Aunt Martha Strutz and was employed as a Fireman in the City of Racine. In 1943, he was thrown off a fire truck while responding to a fire and was seriously injured. He was never able to return to work as a Fireman.

Uncle George was the younger brother of Margaret F. Henningfeld Heck, wife of Robert Steven Heck.



Bits & Pieces from the local newspapers

From the Burlington Standard Democrat, Saturday, 11 February 1899.

"A gold watch chain was found by Henry Henningfeld the first of the week. Owner can have same by calling on Mr. Henningfeld."

I don't know if anyone claimed the gold chain, but could you imagine running an ad like that in today's newspapers?

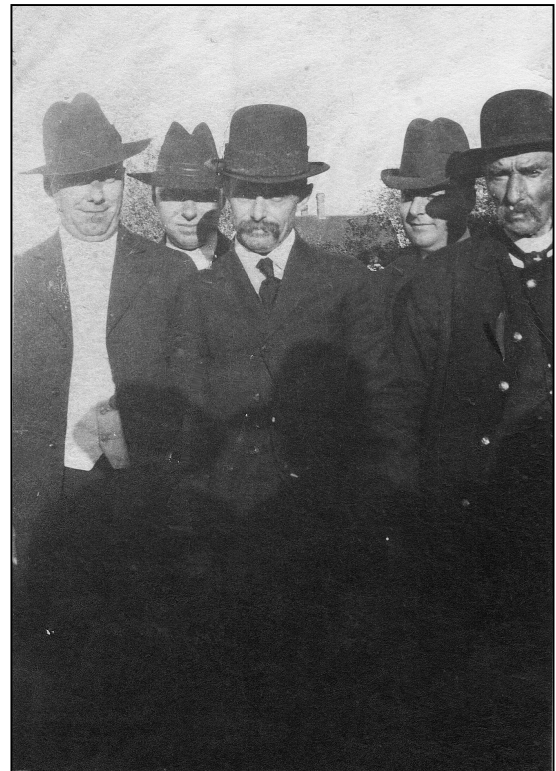
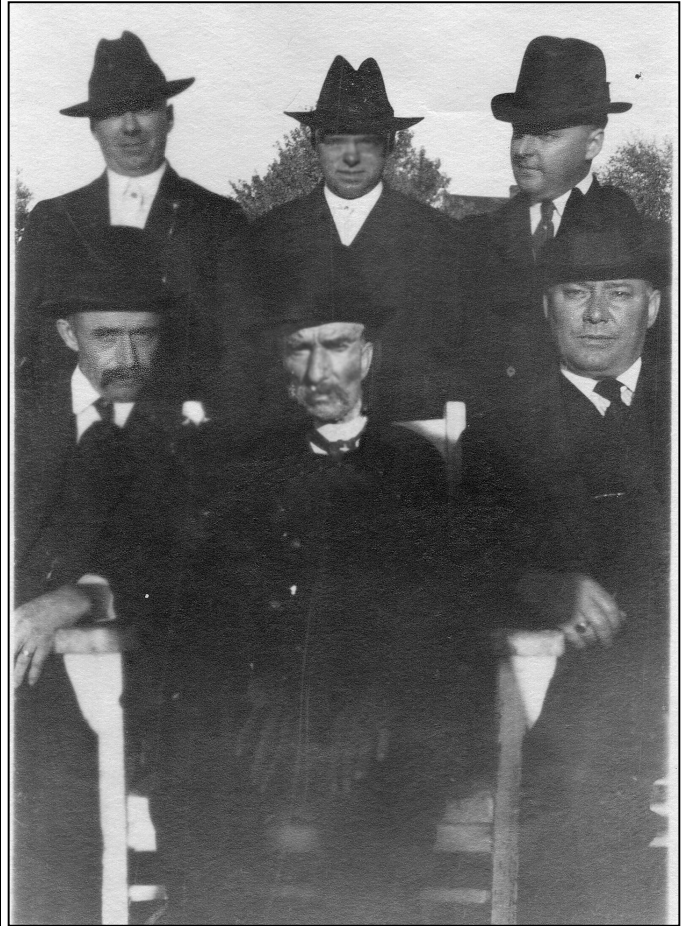
From the Burlington Standard Democrat, Friday, 11 October 1912.

"Henry Heck and Miss Eva Heck left last Friday for an extended visit at New Ulm and Fairfax, Minnesota."

No doubt Henry and his daughter were visiting their Heck and Brunner relatives from Minnesota. In 1912, Henry's sister, Clara Heck Brunner, was living in New Ulm, Minnesota while his brother Joseph Heck may have been living in Fairfax. Joseph operated a farm in Fairfax for a period of time. There were many Brunner relatives living in Fairfax at that time.

Henry Heck Photo believed taken in 1912

The photograph at upper right is a photo of Henry Heck and his sons. Standing Left to Right is Mathias Heck, Robert Steven Heck, Lawrence P. Heck. Seated left to right is James Henry Heck, Henry Heck, and John Peter Heck. It is believed that the photo was taken on the occasion of the death of Mary Ann McNulty Heck, wife of Henry Heck. The photo at lower right was taken the same day.



Meet Your Cousins...



The photo above shows the Christie women from Wild Rose, Waushara County, Wisconsin. The photo was taken in about 1875.

Left to right front row: Addie Christie, wife of Duncan MacLennan, Janet nee Johnston Christie 1828-1905, wife of John Christie, Clara Christie 1860-1936, wife of Lawrence McNulty (sic McNulty).

Left to right back row: Jennie Christie, wife of George Clark, Margaret Christie 1855-1934 wife of Urban Briggs, and Mary Christie 1857-1935, wife of Joseph Campbell.

After the father, John Christie, died in about 1875, Lawrence McNulty, son of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess moved to the Christie farm at Springwater Township, near Wild Rose. Lawrence McNulty was 16 years of age at that time. He remained on the Christie farm as a farm hand until he married Clara Christie on 14 August 1881.

Lawrence McNulty changed his name to McNulty

OBITUARY: Waushara Argus April 3, 1930: "Larry McNulty, Age 69, Is Called to Rest. Larry McNulty, age 69, passed away Monday morning at his home, about three miles east of Wild Rose, near Silver Lake. He had been in failing health for about two years.

Larry McNulty was born at Brighton, Racine (Sic) County, Wisconsin, March 1st, 1861. He came to Waushara County in 1875 and resided there the remainder of his life. He was married to Miss Clara Christie August 14, 1881, and to this union two children were born, John C., who died in infancy, and Robert F., who resides at Clintonville, Wisconsin.

He was a charter member of the local chapter of the Woodmen Lodge and always took an active part in the various functions of that organization. He and his son, Robert were taken into the Masonic Lodge together, and to this order he gave loyal devotion and faithful service.

After an illness of about a year, and from which during the last few weeks he had suffered greatly, he departed this life on March 31, 1930, at his farm home near Silver Lake. He leaves to mourn his death, his wife, his son Robert and family, and one sister, Mrs. A. Dibble of Antioch, Wisconsin (Sic), and many friends. Larry was a kind husband and father, a good neighbor; generous, faithful, and honest in all his dealings, and highly respected by all of his acquaintances.

The funeral services were held at the house, Wednesday, April 2, with the Rev. Millard J. Gordanier officiating. Special music was furnished by the Welch quartet. Burial services were held in the Howe cemetery, and conducted by the Wild Rose Chapter of Masons."



In the photo above back row L-R: Jennie Clark, Clara McNelty, Lawrence McNelty, Janet McNelty, Clara (Christie) McNulty, Helen (Davis) McNelty, Kathryn McNelty, Jane Jones, and Mamie Davis. Front row L-R: Patience McNelty, Marion Roberts, Prudence McNelty, Robert Reed McNelty and Roberta McNelty. This photo was taken on the family farm in Springwater Township, (Wild Rose) Wisconsin in 1921 or 1922.

Larry McNelty's wife died on August 14, 1936. Her obituary follows.

OBITUARY: Waushara Argus August 20, 1936: "MRS. McNELTY DIES."

"Clara Christie McNelty was born March 18, 1859, near Silver Lake, in the town of Spring-

water, the fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Christie.

She grew to womanhood in this vicinity and attended common schools, then attended the Normal school and later taught school for several years.

She was married to Larry McNelty, August 14, 1881. To them were born two sons: John, who died in infancy, and Robert, who survives her. Six years ago, after the death of Mr. McNelty, she bought a home in Wild Rose and moved in from the farm, three miles east of the village, where she lived until her death on Friday, August 14th, 1936. Mrs. McNelty has lived her entire life in this community.

She leaves to mourn her passing: one son, Robert, of Denver, Colorado, and six grandchildren:

Mrs. Janet Roberts, Wausau; Mrs. Clara Grayson, and Mrs. Kathryn Grayson, Racine; Mrs. Roberta Moran, Mexico City; Mrs. Patience Christiansen, Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Prudence Rockman, Clintonville; Robert Reed McNelty, Denver, Colorado; also eight great-grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Jane Clark, Chicago, and Mrs. Adelaide McLennon, Park Ridge, Ill., and a host of friends who will miss her congenial personality.

The following poem expresses the feeling of her family and friends:

'We followed her to the river, the mystical river, Death; And watched with love's deep devotion, The flickering, failing breath; But we could not see the angels That waited on wings of light, Nor hear the celestial music She heard in her upward flight. Her face with its gently beauty, Her voice with its tender tone, The life ever true to duty Are gone and we wait alone; But faith that had shone so brightly Through life as her guiding star, Has lifted us in our sorrow, To where the bright mansions are.'

Funeral Services were held Sunday afternoon from the home and from the Methodist church where she was a faithful member, the Rev. R. R. Holliday officiating. A beautiful profusion of flowers expressed the sympathy and esteem of her many friends. During the service "The Old Rugged Cross," "When They Those Golden Bells," and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" were sung by Mrs. R. R. Holliday, Mrs. Wilford Urban, V. E. Wensel and Robert Owens.

Pallbearers were John Smith, Oscar Holt, Lewis Protheroe, Hugh Young and John Protheroe. Burial was made in the Howe cemetery.

Those from away who attended the services were: Robert F. McNelty, Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Jennie Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Sid Bonnevill, Chicago; Mrs. Addie McLennon, Park

Ridge, Illinois; Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Roberts and Donald McLennon and family of Wausau; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grayson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Grayson, Racine; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rockman, Clintonville; Mrs. Adam Dibble, Antioch, Illinois, and Mrs. Maud Neuville, St. Louis, Missouri."

Memories from the past **by Gary M. Heck, 2007**

I thought I'd jot down some thoughts and memories from the past. I remember our family had a party-line phone. Although there were four party lines we had a two party line. You had to pick the phone up to hear if you could make a call. The operator would come on the phone and ask, "number please!". You gave her the number and she put the call through. Racine had two prefixes, Prospect and Jackson. There were only three numbers, so you had a phone number such as Jackson 387. Most of the Jackson numbers were on the north side and the Prospect numbers on the south side.

I remember the Phone Company did away with the Jackson and Prospect prefixes and went to Melrose and also went to 7 digit phone numbers.

We finally got a private line when my dad got elected as an Alderman because the other people on the party line complained they could never get on the phone.

Hagerer Street

We lived above my grandmother in their house. (Mom's mother) I remember my dad being an air raid warden during WW 2. I remember looking out the window one night when there was a drill going on and my dad, who was in the street doing his air raid duty, yelling at me to cover that light.

I also remember Douglas Avenue was paved with bricks and our long driveway was just gravel. The city decided to pave Douglas Avenue with concrete and let any one that wanted them to come get the bricks. We made many, many trips filling the trunk of my grandfather's 1938 Plymouth with as many bricks it would hold. We then laid bricks in the driveway until it was all paved.

I remember life being simple, there was the "Egg Man" who delivered eggs to customers. There was also the "Rag Man" who would collect old rags from everyone for a few cents. He also sharpened scissors. The "Milk Man" drove a horse drawn truck and delivered milk with the top inch of cream. The milk was in glass bottles. Our milk was from the Studey Dairy and the bottle had the face of a man near the top. When the Milk Man got out to deliver the milk, the horse would walk to the next house and stop and wait.

I remember there were two cherry trees, an apple tree and a plum tree in our backyard. Everyone picked cherries and my grandfather made homemade cherry wine, which was stored in large wooden barrels in the basement. I also remember the Sunday sheephead card games at my grandparents. They had come from Czechoslovakia so everyone talked Czech. My Dad didn't understand a word that was being said and seeing as he wasn't a very good card player, he thought everyone was telling everyone else what to play. He refused to play with them after a long losing streak.

Jones Avenue.

We moved to Jones Avenue in the early 1940's. I remember Friday was perch night. All of us Catholics would eat fish on Friday. Most of the neighborhood bars had a fish fry. In the early fifties, the bars had the only TV's around. A lot of men went to the bar for fish and to watch the Friday Night fights. Boxing was one of the few

sports on TV then. We got our first TV in 1950. I remember one of the first newscasts we heard was that the Korean War started and none of us had any idea where Korea was. There were only a couple of TV stations at the time. The Milwaukee channel was on channel 3 and they ran programming for a few hours a day. Most of the day all you saw was a test pattern. The TV came on late in the afternoon and was generally over by 9 or 10 PM.

We lived a few houses from Douglas Park. I remember going there at night to watch fast pitch softball. There were always large crowds at the games. There would be someone there with a popcorn wagon selling popcorn for either a nickel or a dime depending on what size you wanted.

I also remember going to the Granada Movie Theater. You could watch two full movies, a newsreel, a couple of cartoons and coming attractions, and get a box of candy for 10 cents. On Saturdays you could watch two shoot-em-ups with Roy Rogers or Gene Autry for a nickel if you also brought an old comic book to give to the poor kids.

The buses ran every fifteen minutes and you could go anywhere in town with a transfer for 3 cents, if you were a kid, or 5 cents if you were an adult. There were no malls or shopping centers. All of the shopping was done downtown. I remember going Christmas shopping with my Mother or Dad downtown and being amazed by how crowded it was.

I remember the family across the street had a small 3 inch TV and it came with a large magnifying glass attached to a swivel that you swung in front of the TV so everyone could see. They also had what was then called colored TV. It was a see through plastic sheet with the bottom third colored green for grass, the middle third was clear and the top third was blue for sky.

Two car families were rare. Most women didn't drive and very few worked. You either took the bus or walked everywhere. You could walk anywhere in Racine at any hour and not worry. The streets were safe and the Cops were walking beats so each neighborhood had its own Cop.

Gary M. Heck

Note from the Editor: Bob Heck:

I think it is great when the readers of this newsletter take some time to share their memories of what it was like growing up. I didn't remember hearing that my Dad was an Air Raid Warden during World War II. But I do remember a silver helmet that my brother Gary wore when we were kids. That must have been Dad's Warden helmet.

Gary brought back a lot of memories for me in his article. I remember the cream freezing on top of the milk bottles during the winter even when it was delivered in the milk chute. The milk and cream would freeze and push the cardboard cover off of the bottle. Sometimes the cream would stick out of the bottle by four inches or more. We used to break off the frozen cream and eat it like ice cream. It lacked the sweet taste of real ice cream and it had a course texture. But it tasted good.

Thanks Gary for the great memories. All of us appreciate it.

Update on Baltasar and Thomas Heck

In the last two issues of Our Family News Letter, I wrote about our efforts to find the connection between the Heck family living in Alendorf, Germany today to the Heck families living in Minnesota and Wisconsin today. The purpose of this line of research is that through the two brothers, Baltasar and Thomas Heck, we should

be able to find the connection to the Heck families living in Alendorf today.

Since we established the link between Baltasar and Thomas Heck to The Hecks living in Alendorf, we only needed to establish the link between the two brothers to the Hecks living in the United States.

If we start with **Theo Heck**, still living in Alendorf, we have his line back as follows:

Theo Heck born 28 Sep 1935 (married Susanne Freuen)

Thomas Heck born 26 Sep 1897 (married Katharina Hansen)

Josef Heck born 29 Jun 1849 (married Anna Maria Bach)

Thomas Heck born about 1800 (married Anna Maria Dries/Dress)

Johann Heck born 1774 (married Magdalena Molitor)

Theodor Hecken born 10 Aug 1735 (married Anna Maria Hutsch)

My Heck line is as follows:

Robert J. Heck born 8 Dec 1940 (married Gloria LaBerge)

Robert G. Heck born 9 May 1909 (married Mary Ann Mikel)

Robert S. Heck born 14 Dec 1879 (married Margaret Henningfeld)

Henry Heck born 10 Feb 1839 (married Mary Ann McNulty)

Johann Heck born 17 Feb 1810 (married Anna Barbara Schaefer)

Anna Lucia Heck born 13 Dec 1778 (married Johann Peter Schmitz)

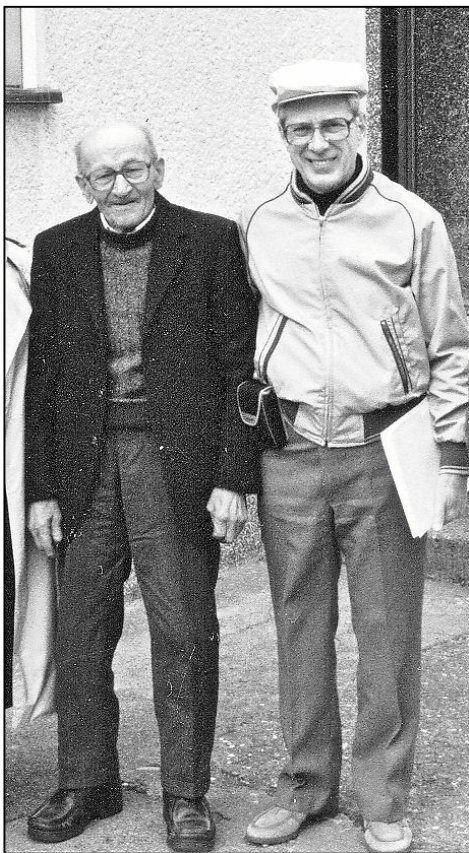
Theodor Hecken born 10 Aug 1735 (married Anna Maria Hutsch)

Theo Heck and Robert John Heck are 4th cousins one time removed. Their common ancestors are Theodor Hecken and Anna Maria Hutsch.

Theo Heck and Robert John Heck are also 6th cousins one time removed. Their common ancestors are Bernard Schaefer and Christina Unknown. This connection is through the Anna Barbara Schaefer line.

Since the last newsletter Howard Heck from Minneapolis and I have been researching the descendants of Balthasar and Thomas Heck. A lot of progress has been made and we are finding that there are a lot of our relatives out there.

I even found a link to a genealogist from the Netherlands who actually had the descendants of Balthasar Heck listed on his web page. He had been tracing the descendants and ancestors of Balthasar's wife, Elizabeth Voss. He sent information to me that helped fill in some of the blanks. Information from his web page also provided a link to two other researchers in the United States who had information on Balthasar's descendants in Minnesota and Iowa.



The photo at left was taken in 1984 and shows Matthias Heck and Howard Heck at the Heck family home in Alendorf, Germany. Matthias died on 28 Dec 1988 at Alendorf. It was Matthias who recalled that two of his uncles, Balthasar and Thomas Heck, left for America in the 1880's or 1890's. Information provided by Matthias is what eventually led to the discoveries outlined in the past issues of this newsletter.

Matthias Heck remembered being told by his mother when he was a young boy about his two uncles immigrating to America.

It's a Small World...

Just to show how small this world is getting, I received an e-mail message from a man named Scott Elliott Schaefer from Oregon. He found my genealogy information on the Internet. His daughter is vacationing in Germany and would like to visit the Heck and Schaefer relatives in Alendorf, Germany. Scott is a descendant from the Johann Schaefer family from the New Ulm, Minnesota area. Johann Schaefer 1792-1874, was a brother of Anna Barbara Schaefer 1801-1855. Scott Elliott Schaefer and Robert John Heck are 4th cousins 1 time removed. Their common ancestors are Balthasar Schaefer and Anna Margareta Jenner.

This newsletter is written and published by **Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129.**

Our Family News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated. My e-mail address is **bheck@execpc.com**